Intermission I ~
The People of the Nakamachi Circus

I BID YOU WELCOME TO THIS STRANGE CIRCUS, WITH ITS GEARS TURNED BY FATE AND ITS SPRINGS WORKED BY PASSIONS.
YOU WHO SIT IN ATTENDANCE ON KARAKURI CIRCUS...

1

SHIROGANE.
168 CENTIMETERS TALL. HER REAL NAME IS ELEONORE. SHE DESTROYS AUTOMATA. THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HER BIRTH ARE UNKNOWN.
SHE HAS MADE IT HER MISSION TO PROTECT MASARU.

SAIGA MASARU.
11 YEARS OLD AND 138 CENTIMETERS TALL, HE IS IN HIS 5TH YEAR OF PRIMARY SCHOOL.
HIS LIFE IS IN DANGER DUE TO THE VAST FORTUNE THAT HE INHERITED.
PERMIT ME NOW TO INTRODUCE THE MAIN PLAYERS IN THIS SHOW.

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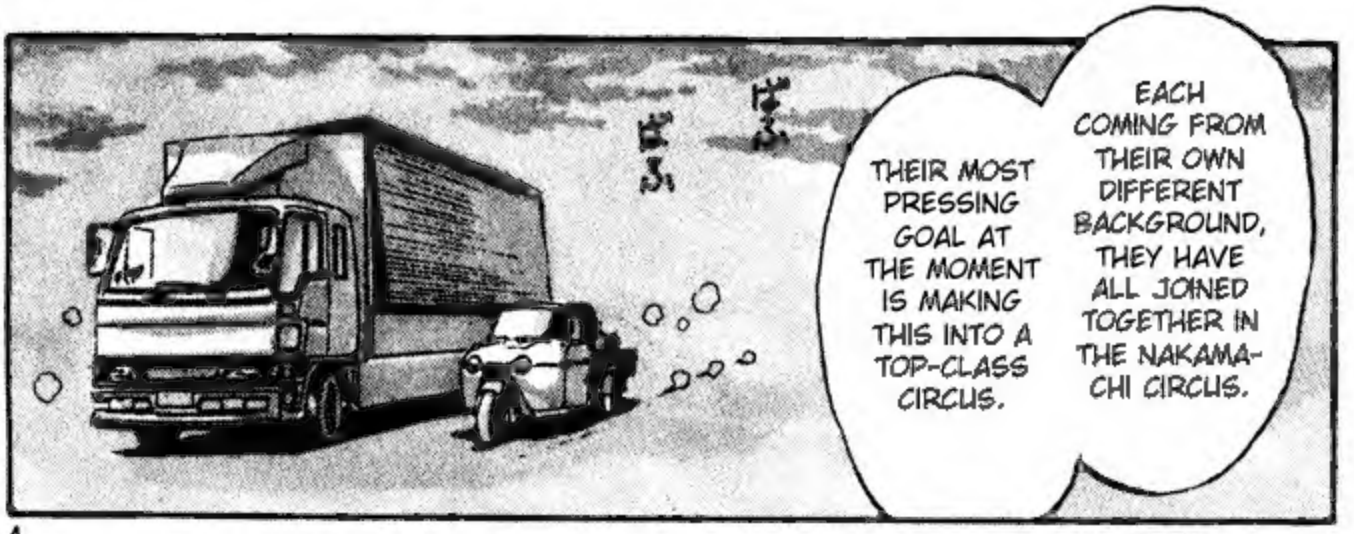
仲町サーカスの人々
MITSU'USHI MOROMI (54)
Was ringmaster of another circus, but it went bankrupt due to his embezzling. Invited himself into the Nakamachi Circus along with his son, Naota.
MITSU'USHI NAOTA (23)
Acrobat who's fallen for Shirogane. Doesn't get along with Nori and Hiro.
NAKAMACHI NORIYUKI (22)
Equilibrist who's fallen for Shirogane and likes mystery novels. Nickname: Nori.
NAKAMACHI HIROYUKI (21)
Corde lisse practitioner who's fallen for Shirogane and likes poetry. Nickname: Hiro.

AND THESE ARE THEIR COMPANIONS AS THEY TRAVEL: THE MEMBERS OF THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS, CURRENTLY IN GRAVE FINANCIAL STRAITS!
GUY CHRISTOPHE RECH
Taken in by the Nakamachi Circus after being injured. A doctor who knows the truth about Shirogane.
VIRMA THORNE (27)
Knife-thrower and former assassin from America.
UBUKATA RYOUKO (11)
Ubukata Houan's granddaughter. Considers Masaru her rival. An active girl in her 5th year of primary school.
UBUKATA HOUAN (67)
Prapman and tentmaster (the one who oversees equipment and grounds) for the former Nakamachi Circus. An old yeller.
TALANDA LIESELOTTE TACHIBANA (14)
Tamer of wild and small animals alike. Came from a big circus in America. Half German, half Japanese. She's grown quite fond of Masaru.
PICK A BETTER WAY TO DESCRIBE US, WOULD YA?!
NAKAMACHI SHINOBU (58)
Ringmaster of the Nakamachi Circus. A stone-eater.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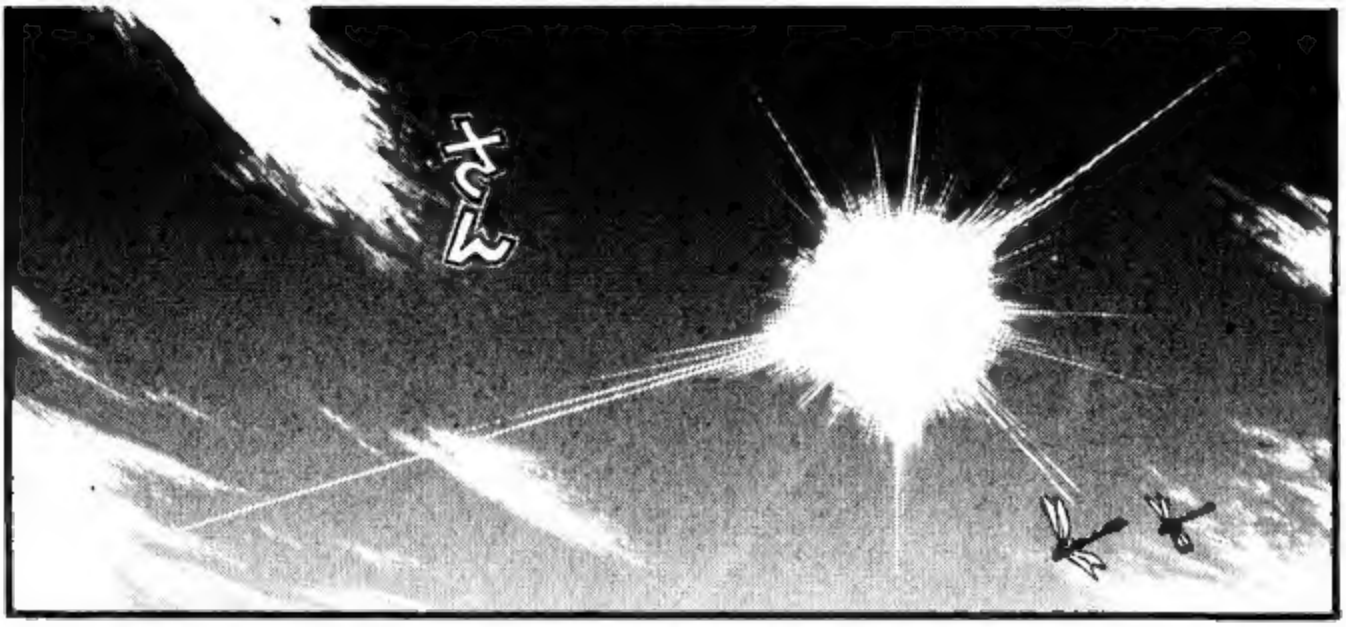
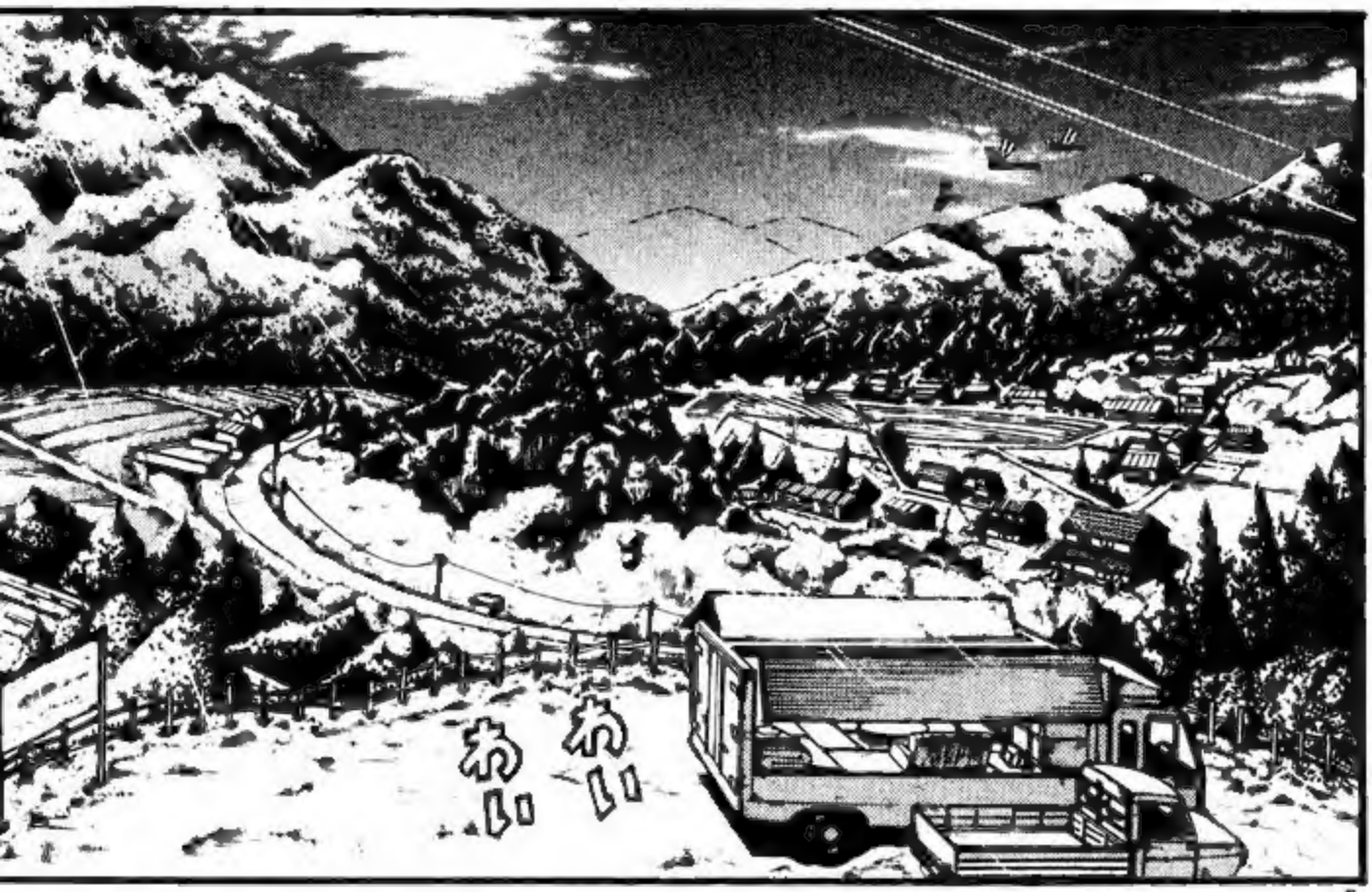
EACH COMING FROM THEIR OWN DIFFERENT BACKGROUND, THEY HAVE ALL JOINED TOGETHER IN THE NAKAMA-CHI CIRCUS.
THEIR MOST PRESSING GOAL AT THE MOMENT IS MAKING THIS INTO A TOP-CLASS CIRCUS.

4

LET US RAISE THE CURTAIN NOW ON THIS CHAPTER OF THE STORY.
WHAT SAY WE GIVE MASARU AND SHIROGANE THE CHANCE ...
TO SHOW US JUST HOW HARD THEY ARE WORKING IN THIS CIRCUS?





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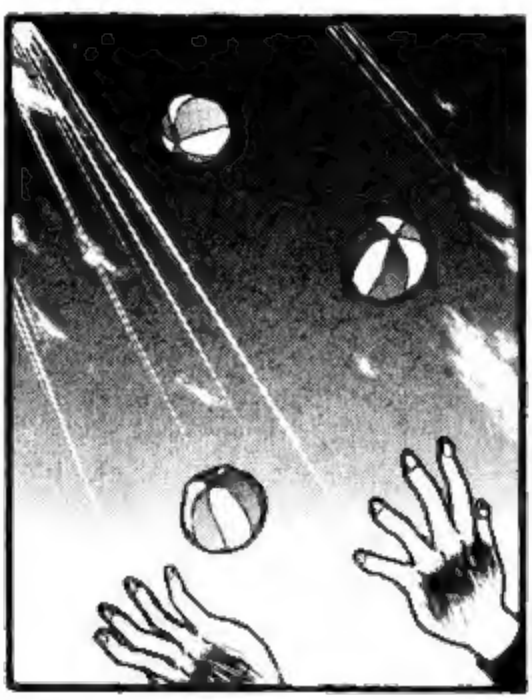

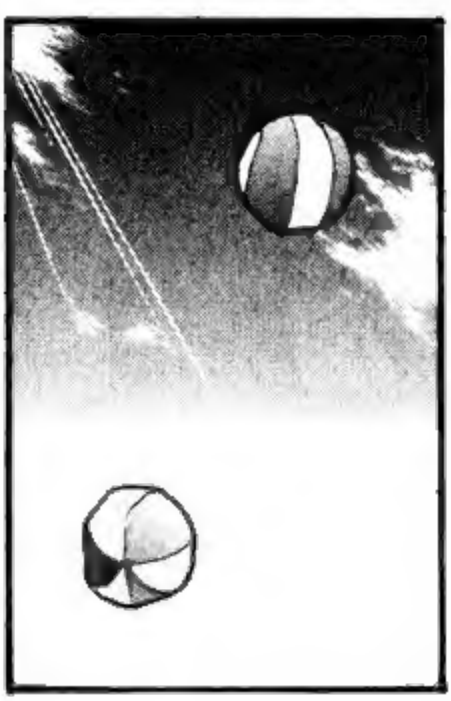

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IT'S BECAUSE SHIRO-GANE'S BEEN HELPING ME OUT EVERY DAY.
I'M REALLY HAPPY ABOUT IT!
YEAH!
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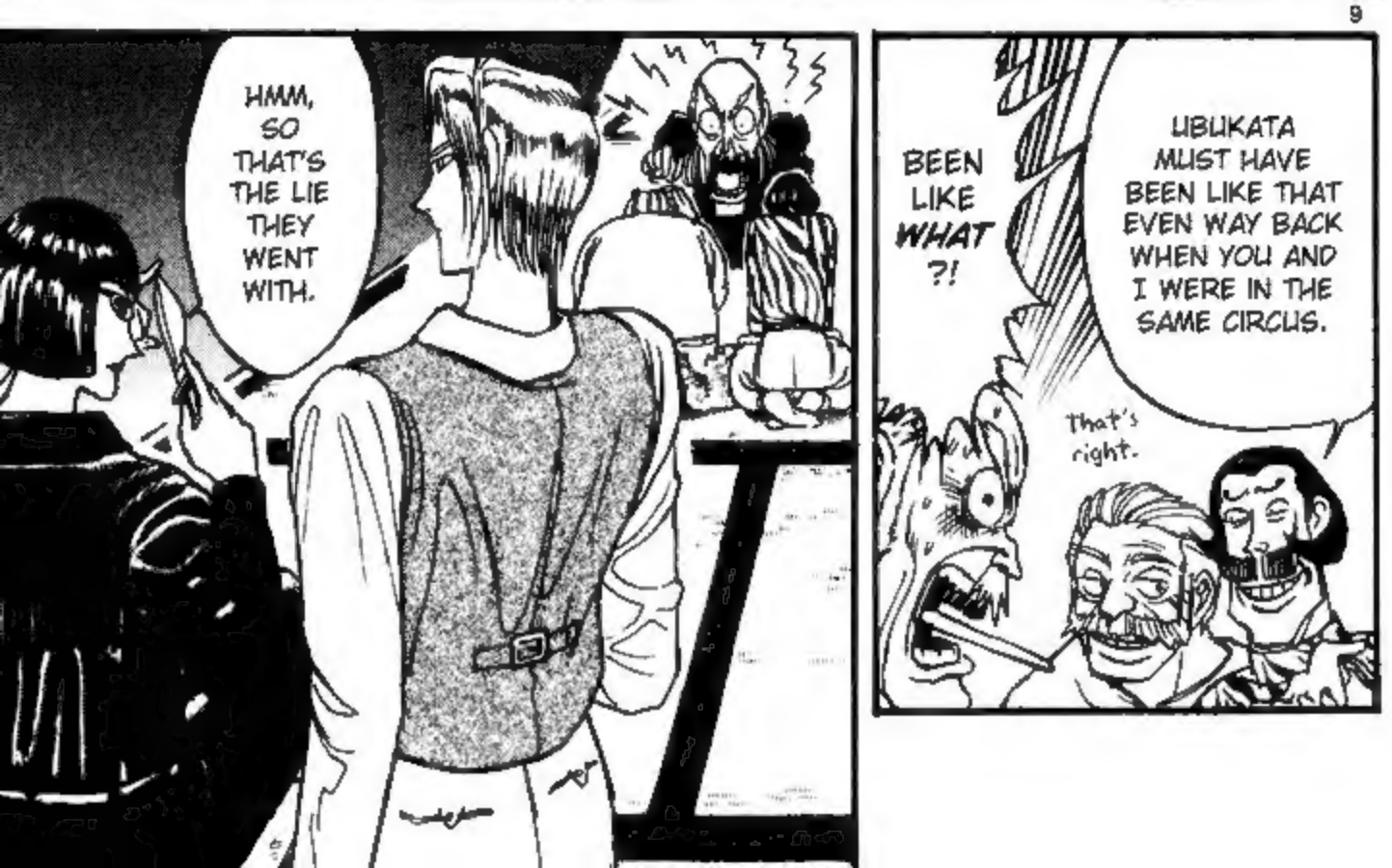
YOU'VE GOTTEN PRETTY GOOD WITH THOSE JUGGLING BALLS, HUH?
AWE-SOME, MASARU!

HANG ON, SHIRO-GANE!
AND DRINK THIS MINE-RAL WATER TO REPLACE THE MOISTURE YOU'VE LOST.
NOW, WIPE OFF THAT SWEAT BEFORE YOU CATCH COLD.
YOU'VE BECOME SO SKILLED, YOUNG MASTER!
I can do this myself!
SERIOUSLY, IT'S LIKE MASARU TAKES UP ALL HER TIME... I'M SO JEALOUS ...!
SHIRO-GANE ALWAYS GETS SO OVER-PROTECTIVE WITH MASARU ...
OH, DIDN'T YOU KNOW, NAOTA? MASARU'S FAMILY USED TO LIVE IN FRANCE, AND THEY WERE SUPER RICH.
She ain't your anything, buster...
...SER-IOUSLY, HOW COME THAT BRAT GETS TO HOG ALL OF MY SHIROGANE'S AFFECTION ?!

SHIROGANE'S THE DAUGHTER OF THE WET NURSE WHO LOOKED AFTER MASARU BACK THEN. AND BECAUSE SHE STILL OWES THEM A DEBT OF GRATITUDE FROM BACK THEN, SHE STUCK WITH HIS FAMILY EVEN AFTER THEY LOST ALL THEIR MONEY.
HUH ?!
SHE NEVER SAID A WORD ABOUT ANY OF THAT WHEN WE WERE IN THE SAME CIRCUS.
I'M TELLING YOU, YOU ARE NOTHING TO HER!

AFTER MASARU LOST BOTH HIS PARENTS, THE RELATIVE WHO TOOK CUSTODY OF HIM WAS A HORRIBLE, VIOLENT GUY, SO THE TWO OF THEM DECIDED...
TO LIVE WITH EACH OTHER SOME-PLACE ELSE.
FID-DLE-FAD-DLE!
THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH YOUNG FOLK THESE DAYS! THEY HAVE NO STICK-TO-ITIVE-NESS!
OH, HERE WE GO. THE OLD YELLER'S YELLIN' AGAIN.


UBUKATA MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE THAT EVEN WAY BACK WHEN YOU AND I WERE IN THE SAME CIRCUS.
That's right.
BEEN LIKE WHAT ?!
HMM, SO THAT'S THE LIE THEY WENT WITH.

MM, WELL ...
THEN AGAIN, IT SEEMS LIKE SHIROGANE TRUSTS YOU. YOU MUST BE WELL-ACQUAINTED WITH MASARU'S REAL STORY.
IT WAS A PRIVATE MATTER... MYSTERIOUS HANDSOME FRENCH GUY.
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY, LOVELY LADY KNIFE-THROWER ...?

YES... MASARU-SAN WAS NAMED THE SOLE HEIR TO A VAST FORTUNE, AND HIS OLDER HALF-SIBLINGS RESENTED HIM FOR IT.
REALLY? SO YOU KNOW IT TOO, LITTLE KITTEN TAMER?
OH! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
ERR... I KNOW IT AS WELL, ACTUALLY ...

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AND SO HE CAME TO THIS CIRCUS FLEEING THE ASSASSINS AFTER HIS LIFE, ALONG WITH SHIROGANE-SAN.

I SEE ...
I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST IF HE WERE HONEST WITH NAKAMACHI-SAN AND THE OTHERS, BUT PERHAPS IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS ...
I'D KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE, SINCE I WAS ONE OF THE ASSASSINS.
WELL, THAT'S MORE OR LESS IT, FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD.
Don't get so full of yourself!
Give me a break! I can do that too.
H-hate me...!
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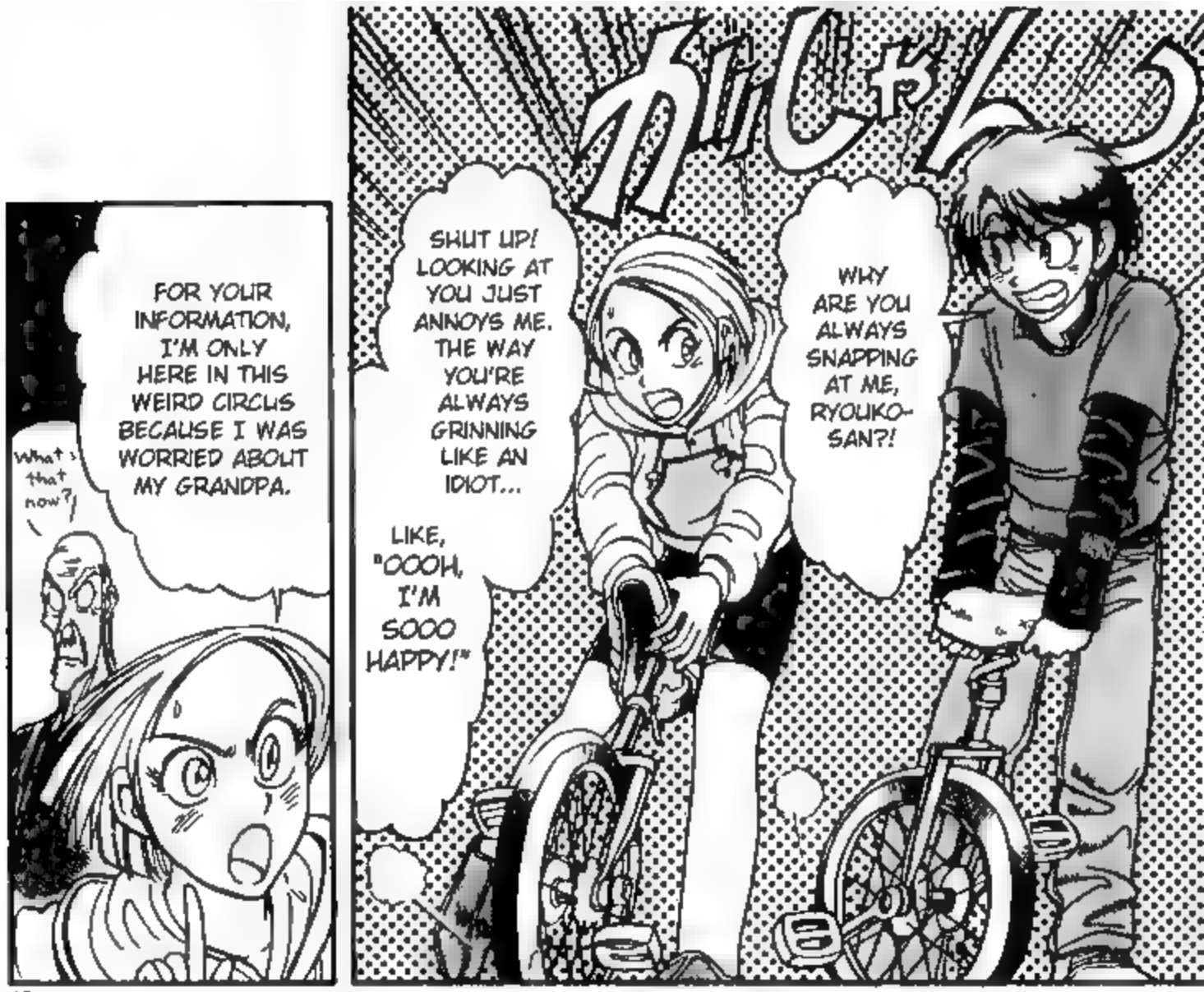
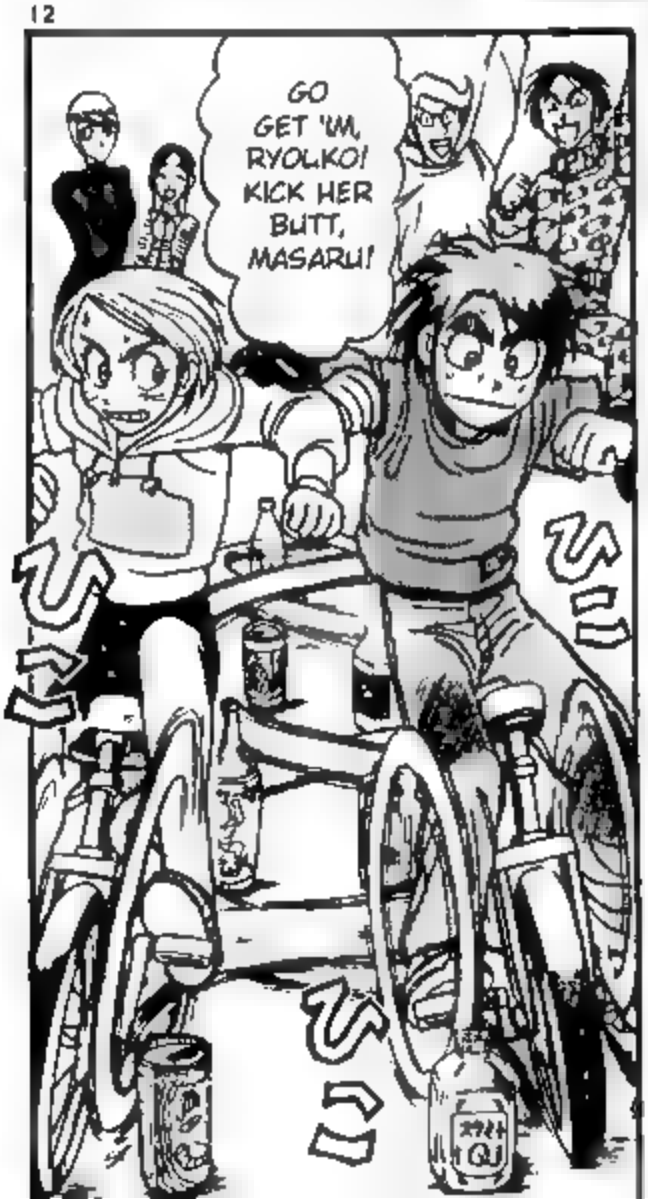
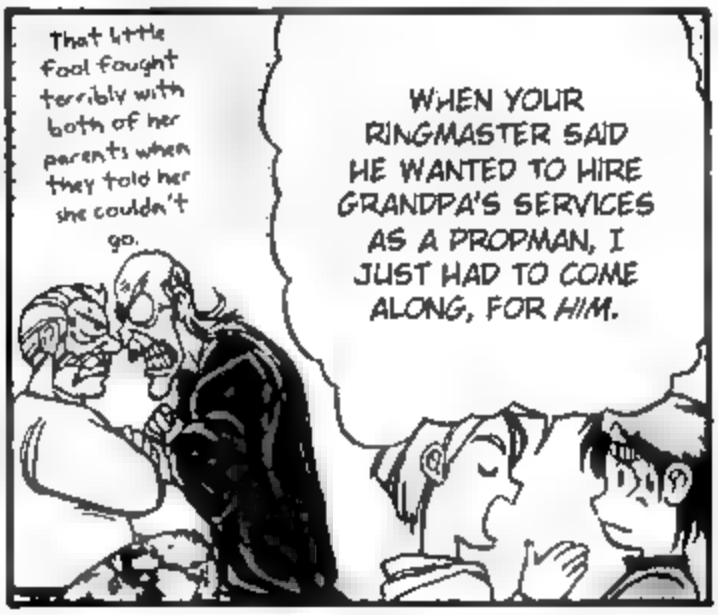
Masaru's a man! He'll get to hate you if you bug him over every little thing.
C'mon, Shirogane.

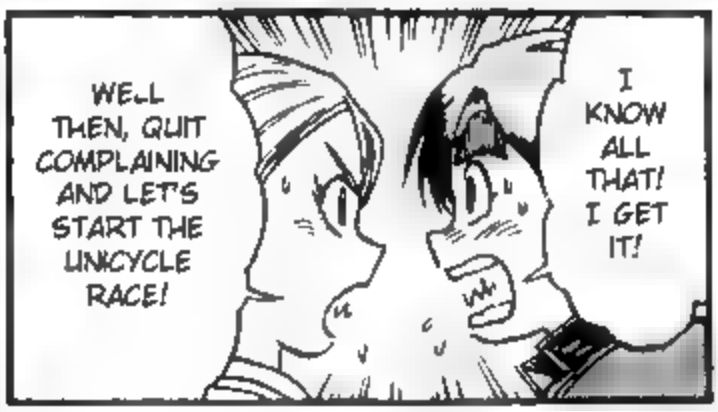
WELL... THAT'S A STORY THAT CAN WAIT FOR ANOTHER DAY.
I HAVE THE FEELING THERE'S MUCH MORE THERE THAN MEETS THE EYE...
I'M SURE YOU ALSO KNOW A GREAT DEAL ABOUT SHIROGANE THAT WE DON'T.
AND YOU... GUY, WAS IT?

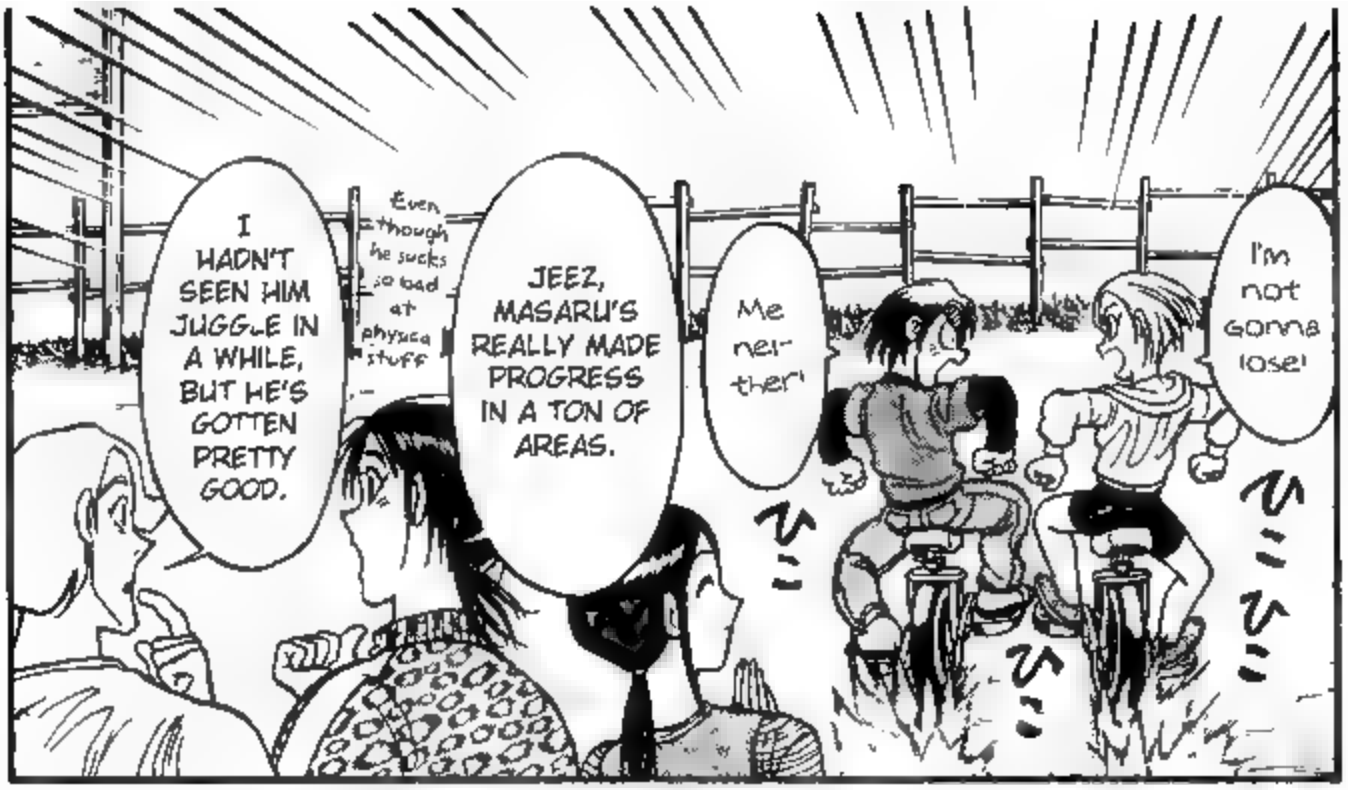

WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SNAPPING AT ME, RYOUKO-SAN?!
SHUT UP! LOOKING AT YOU JUST ANNOYS ME. THE WAY YOU'RE ALWAYS GRINNING LIKE AN IDIOT...
LIKE, "OOOH, I'M SOOO HAPPY!"
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I'M ONLY HERE IN THIS WEIRD CIRCUS BECAUSE I WAS WORRIED ABOUT MY GRANDPA.
What's that now?!

12


GO GET 'EM, RYOUKO! KICK HER BUTT, MASARU!


That little fool fought terribly with both of her parents when they told her she couldn't go.
WHEN YOUR RINGMASTER SAID HE WANTED TO HIRE GRANDPA'S SERVICES AS A PROPMAN, I JUST HAD TO COME ALONG, FOR HIM.


WELL THEN, QUIT COMPLAINING AND LET'S START THE UNICYCLE RACE!
I KNOW ALL THAT! I GET IT!


I HADN'T SEEN HIM JUGGLE IN A WHILE, BUT HE'S GOTTEN PRETTY GOOD.
Even though he sucks so bad at physical stuff
JEEZ, MASARU'S REALLY MADE PROGRESS IN A TON OF AREAS.
Me neither!
I'm not gonna lose!
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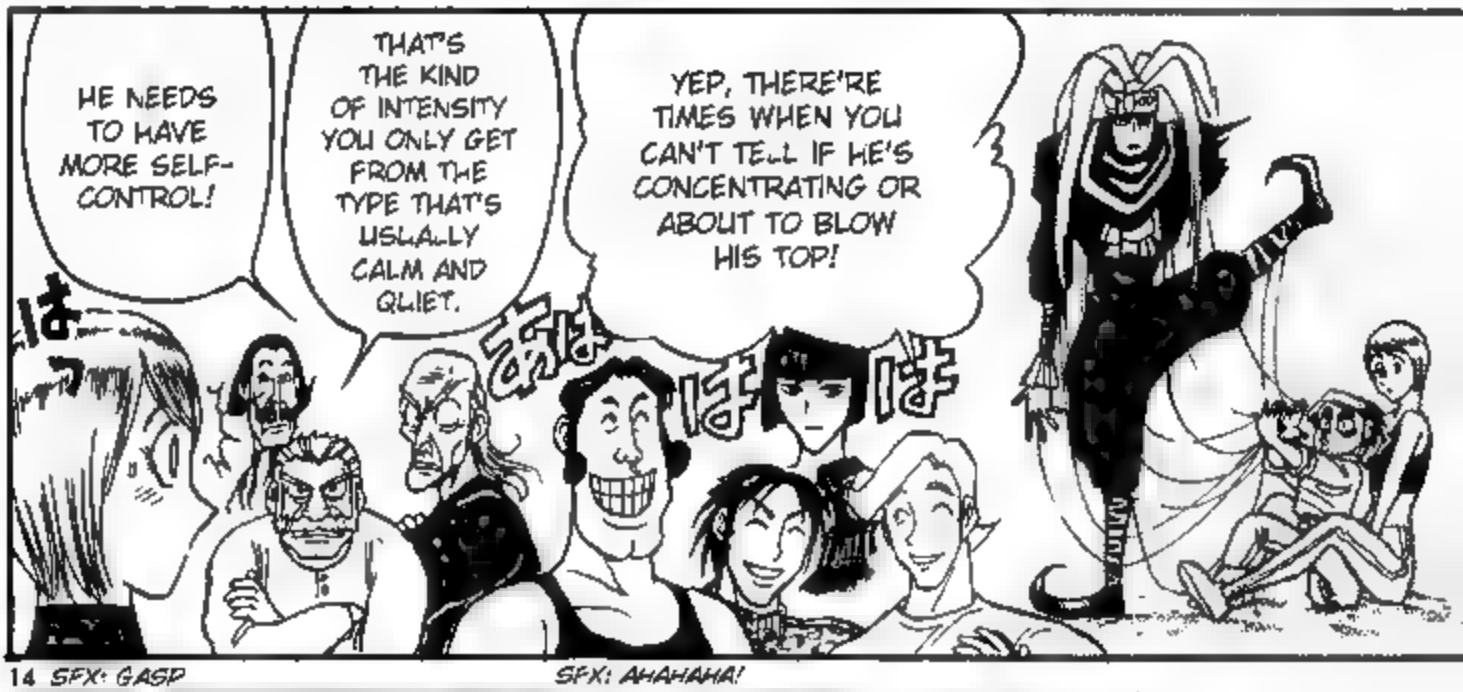
Ku-hyo
SHROGANE... DID YOU JUST MAKE A STRANGE SOUND IN THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT?

Ku-hyo
WHEN HE'S PRACTICING SOMETHING, IT'S LIKE HE CAN'T EVEN HEAR ANYTHING ELSE.
THAT BOY'S GOT SOME IMPRESSIVE POWERS OF CONCENTRATION.

GOT IT.
THAT'S RIGHT, YOUNG MASTER. MOVE YOUR FINGERS AS IF YOU WERE TRACING THE MOUTH OF A BOTTLE...
USING THE STRENGTH FROM YOUR SHOULDERS...

IS SHE... HAPPY TO HEAR MASARU GETTING PRAISED?
N-NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THAT IS ALSO THE CASE WHEN THE YOUNG MASTER IS LEARNING PUPPETRY FROM ME...
Ku-hyo


HE NEEDS TO HAVE MORE SELF-CONTROL!
THAT'S THE KIND OF INTENSITY YOU ONLY GET FROM THE TYPE THAT'S USUALLY CALM AND QUIET.
YEP, THERE'RE TIMES WHEN YOU CAN'T TELL IF HE'S CONCENTRATING OR ABOUT TO BLOW HIS TOP!

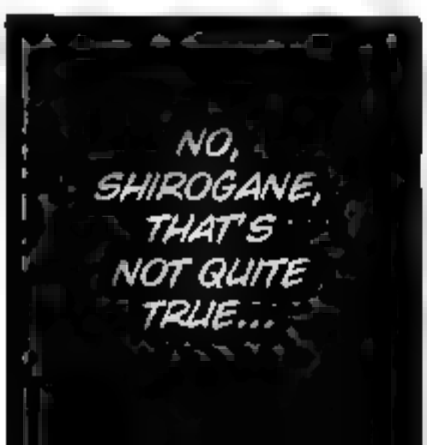
14 SFX: GASP SFX: AHAHAHA!

PLEASE DO NOT BE SO RECKLESS, YOUNG MASTER! I CANNOT BEAR SEEING YOU INJURED ...!

OKAY, HIRO-SAN!
SHOW ME HOW YOU DO ON THE CORDE LISSE NOW, MASARU.
BUT, RING-MASTER ...!
IT'S NATURAL FOR HIM TO GET A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY WHEN HE'S FINALLY MASTERED SOMETHING.
COME ON NOW, SHIRO-GANE. MASA-RU'S A MAN.

I THINK THAT THE YOUNG MAS-TER MUST BE MORE AT PEACE NOW THAN HE HAS EVER BEEN BEFORE ...

I-I'M NOT TOO GOOD AT THAT YET...
YOU SURE GOT PLENTY OF ENERGY THERE, KID! SHOW ME SOME BALANCING TOO, THEN!


NO, SHIROGANE, THAT'S NOT QUITE TRUE...

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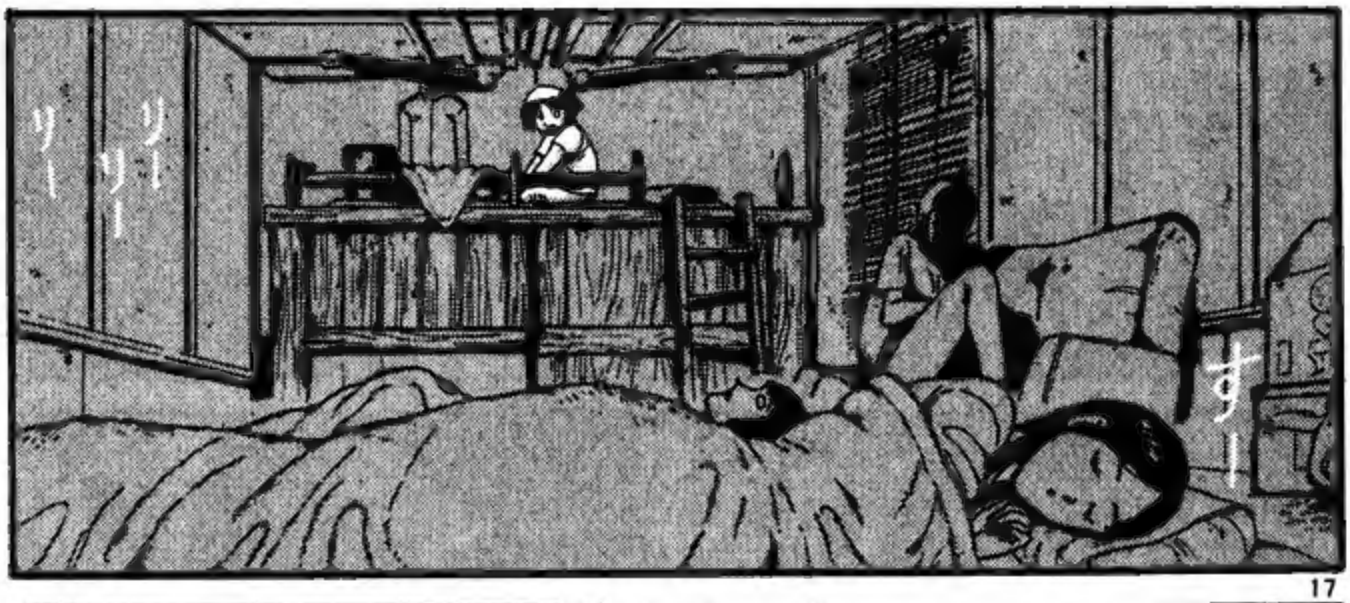

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DREAMS OF WHAT HAPPENED SIX MONTHS AGO...

DREAMS OF THE BIG BROTHER WHO TOLD ME TO BE STRONG...

DREAMS OF THE MOMENT HE DIED.

IT'S MY FAULT THAT YOU DIED.
I'M SORRY, NARUMI-NIICHAN.

I DON'T KNOW WHY. EVEN THOUGH THAT'S THE REASON YOU DIED, BECAUSE I WAS IN DANGER OVER THAT ...
WHY DIDN'T MY FATHER HAND HIS MONEY OVER TO HIS LEGITIMATE CHILDREN? WHY DID HE LEAVE 18 BILLION YEN TO ME, THE SON OF HIS MISTRESS?
BUT... I STILL DON'T EVEN UNDER-STAND.

I HAVE TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF!
I CAN'T JUST GO ON LIKE THIS.
SHIRO-GANE, I'VE MADE UP MY MIND ABOUT SOMETHING. AND I'M SERIOUS ABOUT IT.

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

NOTES:

The original spread on pages 2-3 gives Liese's age incorrectly as 11. I've fixed this for the scanlation.

Guy-Christophe Rêch and Éléonore were the names used by the official French release, but as of this chapter, I'll be switching to Guy Christophe Rech and Eleonore to match the romanizations given in the guidebook. (Éléonore, Eléonore, and Eleonore are all valid versions of the same name; Rech/Rêch/Reche/Rêche is much harder to track down.)

I made an error (now fixed) on page 13 of chapter 206; the insects that the fake Doll Francine is referring to are the ones that are already inside the Zonapha patients' bodies causing the symptoms. With the destruction of the Midnight Circus, there are currently no insects *spreading* the disease to new people.

These scanlations have been uploaded *only* to Batoto so that I can remove them if the series is ever licensed. Please read them there instead of on websites that rip them and watermark them to make a profit off your views!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.